

Flood Hazard Management



Chehalis River Flood – December 2007

Briefing:

Flood Hazard Management

House Agriculture and Natural
Resources Committee

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Assistance Program

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Did development in the floodplain since 1996
elevate the flood?

Should development
continue that allows
fill in the floodplain?



Tough Times Tougher People



Flood response brought out grit and determination.

Tough Times Tougher People



People helping people was evident at disaster centers.



Neighbors worked together in many ways to fight the flood.



Ecology Conservation Crews pitched in with 100 flood fighters.



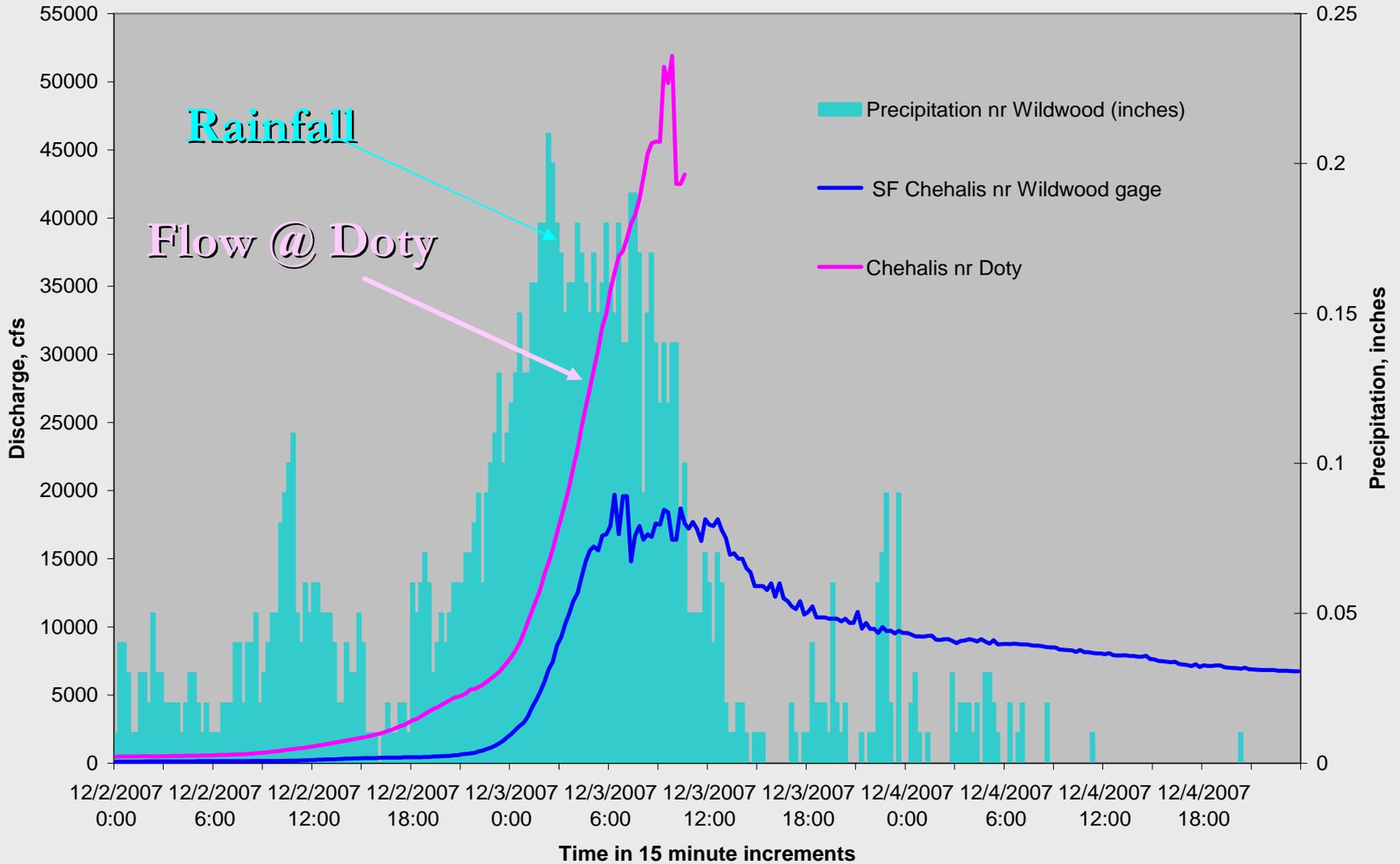
Chehalis River flooded the Twin Cities.



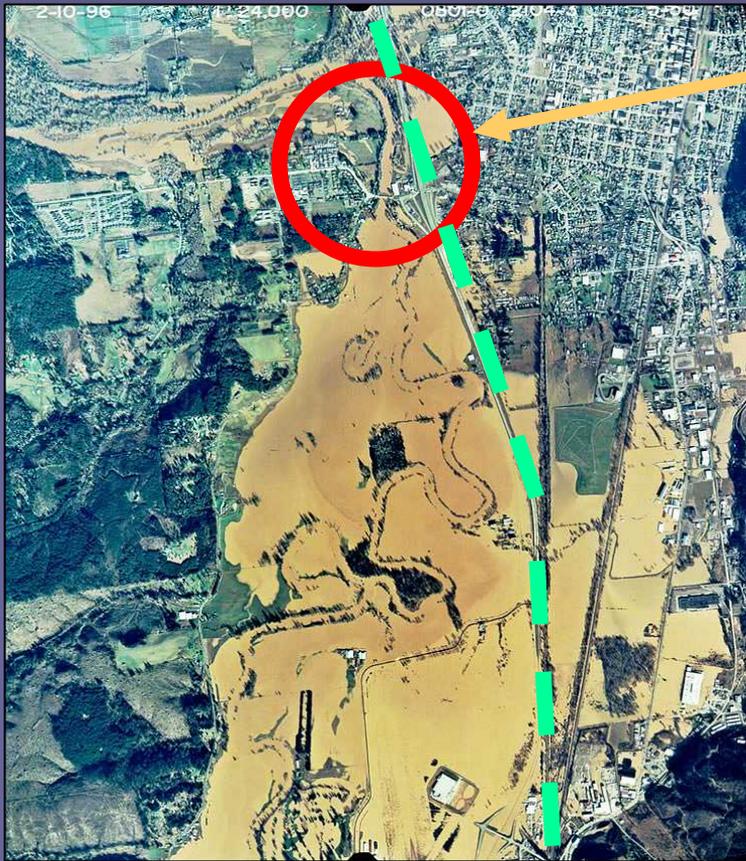
Flooding destroyed roads and bridges, sometimes cutting off escape or rescue.

River Rose Quickly from Intense Rainfall in Upper Watershed

December 2-4, 2007 Storm



Heavy rains and snow melt forced water over Chehalis River banks at Centralia and Chehalis.



Chehalis R: 1996 flood (WDOT)

Natural restriction point
backs up flows.

Interstate 5 



Chehalis R: December 2007 (WDOT)

➤ Did floodplain development since 1996 elevate the flood?

➤ Should development continue that allows fill in the floodplain?



Cooperation Is Key Strategy for Snohomish River Floodplain



Snohomish River, 2006 Flood

Snohomish River Flood Control Success

- All parties worked together.
- Updated the floodplain ordinance.
- Commitment made for agricultural use in floodplain.
- These changes in floodplain management reduced flood damages.

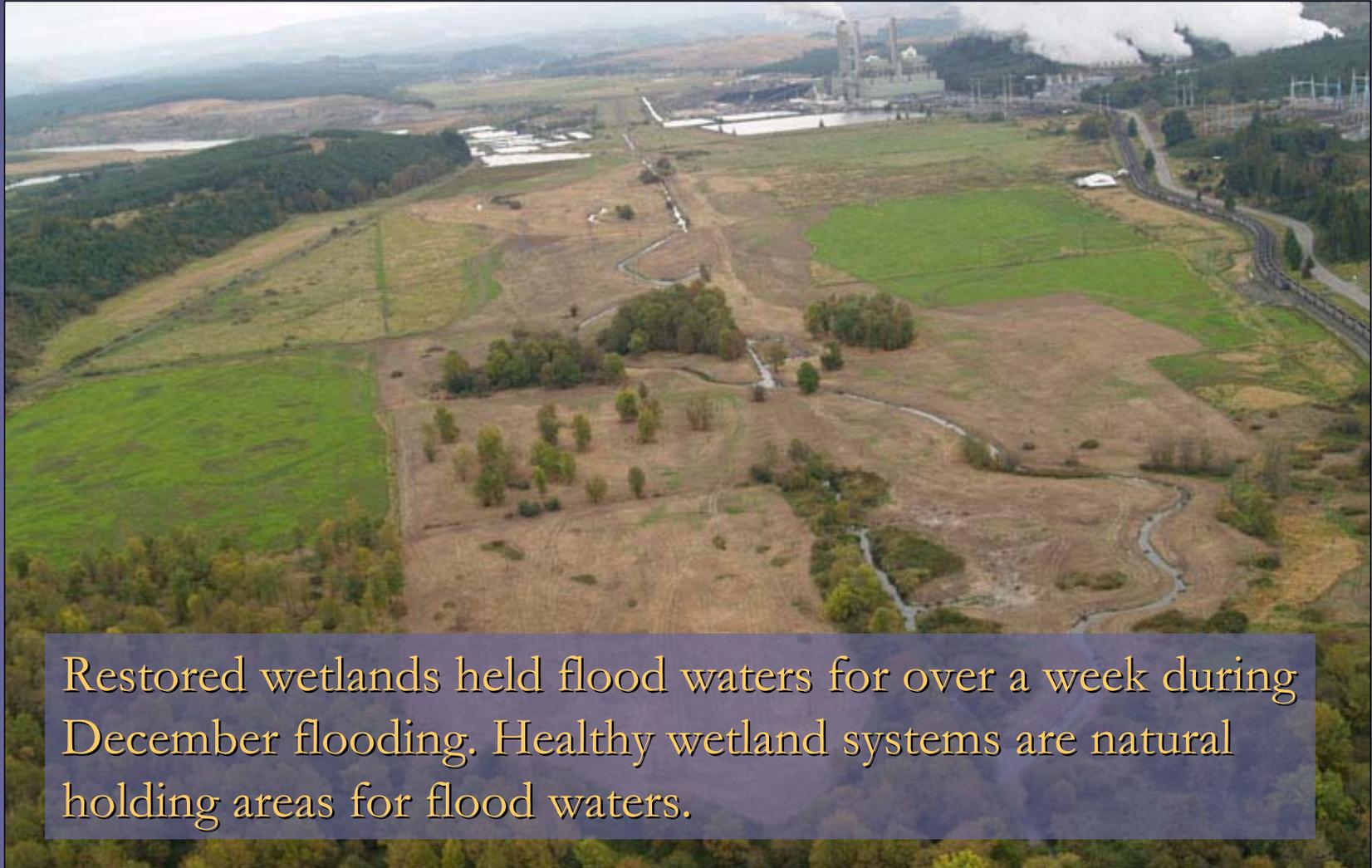


Snohomish River, 2006 Flood

“Before” Wetlands Restored - Big Hanaford Creek



“After” Wetland Restored – Big Hanaford Creek



Restored wetlands held flood waters for over a week during December flooding. Healthy wetland systems are natural holding areas for flood waters.

Challenges and Possible Actions



Challenges

- Floods are challenging to predict.
- Establishing land use limits in flood plains is a local decision, and can be unpopular.
- Updated and accurate floodplain maps are needed.

Possible Options

- Create outreach and early warning systems for all flood prone communities.
- Revise state's minimum floodplain standards.
- Conduct statewide levee inventory.



Possible Options (continued)

- Do floodplain planning at watershed scale.
- Examine Flood Control Assistance Account.



Questions?

